

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 277

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to urge the U.S. Congress to stop cuts in agriculture-related programs and initiatives in the Fiscal Year 2006 federal budget.

WHEREAS, agriculture has been the backbone of the American way of life since the founding of our great nation and even today the United States of America remains the breadbasket of the world; and

WHEREAS, recognizing that farm planning is a multi-year process, the 2002 Farm Bill enacted by Congress provided a long-term commitment to the American farming and ranching communities to ensure stability in the agriculture industry and the overall agriculture economy; and

WHEREAS, the structure and funding levels of the current farm bill are currently being threatened with budget cuts that will jeopardize the futures of America's farmers and ranchers, placing them at a serious competitive disadvantage during World Trade Organization's agriculture trade talks; and

WHEREAS, agricultural products are America's top export with more than \$62 billion in sales during 2004. Farm exports enable jobs and businesses for millions of Americans; more than 17 percent of the total American workforce is involved in the production, processing, and sale of the nation's food and fiber; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee ranks fourth in the nation in the number of farms within our borders, and agriculture contributes \$38.5 billion to the Tennessee economy and accounts for more than 214,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, the economic well-being of Tennessee's agricultural producers directly contributes to the economic well-being of the State as a whole and, in turn, the economic health

of our producers is dependant on the preservation of agricultural funding on a national level. Any budget cuts to agriculture-related programs and initiatives will be disastrous for the agricultural industry throughout the entire nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that, in order to prevent extensive economic damage to the American agriculture industry and the economic stability of the citizens of Tennessee, the United States Congress is hereby urged to stop any cuts to the agriculture budget as proposed in the 2006 Federal Budget documents and are also urged to provide full funding to the 2002 Farm Bill.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Chief Clerk of the Senate is directed to transmit enrolled copies of this resolution to the President and Secretary of the U.S. Senate; the Speaker and the Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives; and each member of Tennessee's Congressional delegation.